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# Chilean Case Points Up U.S. Policy Feud

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WASHINGTON — The "odd couple" of American foreign policy are at it again. One of the worst-kept secrets of the Carter administration is the friction between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the president's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Everyone in the administration passionately denies the rumors of a Vance-Brzezinski conflict. But high-level sources have confirmed the rift. Brzezinski, obviously bucking for the kind of power that his predecessor Henry Kissinger enjoyed under President Nixon and President Ford, repeatedly overrules Vance's more pragmatic approach to international problems by pushing the kind of "hard line" favored by Kissinger.

"Whenever Dr. Brzezinski has a problem, he thinks, 'What would Henry do?'" a top official told us.

The most recent surfacing of the Vance-Brzezinski policy feud involved the government of Chilean President Augusto Pinochet and its responsibility for the brutal assassination of Chilean exile leader Orlando Letelier in Washington three years ago last month. One of the convicted hit men in that brutal murder, expatriate American Michael Vernon Townley, testified that he wired Letelier's car with explosives on orders from the head of Pinochet's secret police, Gen. Juan Manuel Contreras.

Brzezinski persuaded Carter to get tough with the Chilean dictatorship, demanding that the Pinochet regime extradite General Contreras and two other secret police officials for trial in the United States.

Vance privately opposed the Brzezinski line, pointing out that as a practical matter no country is likely to extradite the head of its secret police on a murder charge. It would be as if the U.S. agreed to ship the director of the CIA to a foreign country to stand trial for illegal undercover activities.

But Brzezinski felt that the notoriety surrounding the Letelier murder — and public outrage at the idea that foreign agents could assassinate someone on the streets of the national capital with impunity — made a tough stance mandatory. So the demand for Contreras' extradition was made publicly, and when it was rejected by the Chilean supreme court, Carter was forced to recall our ambassador to Chile, pushing relations with the Pinochet regime to the breaking point.

The Letelier murder may be the cause of still more problems in U.S. relations with Latin American countries. We have evidence that the assassination was planned and carried out as part of a secret "Operation Condor," an international murder ring run by a consortium of half a dozen South American dictatorships with headquarters in Chile.

We have pursued the Letelier case from the outset, after an appeal to us from Michael Moffitt to help him find the murderers. His young wife, Ronni, was killed in the remote-controlled blast along with Letelier as the three of them drove along Embassy Row in the morning rush hour. Michael Mof-

fitt was sitting in the back seat of Letelier's car and miraculously survived the explosion.

We were able to identify the suspects, who were later charged with the crime. Now we are able to reveal that other South American military regimes were aware of the plot to kill Letelier, as part of "Operation Condor."

Contreras, the head of Condor, contacted his counterpart in Paraguay, Benito Guanes, in July 1976, two months before the assassination. Calling himself "Condor One," Contreras asked Guanes ("Condor Three") for two Paraguayan passports with which his hit men could enter the United

States with diplomatic status.

Guanes agreed, sources told us, but for some reason the two assassins never picked up their Paraguayan passports, using Chilean passports and false names to enter the United States at a later date. The Paraguayan passports were provided by the obliging Guanes to two other Chilean secret agents, who used them to come to Washington and act as a diversion for the assassins.

The Paraguayan Connection and Operation Condor may well be another test of Jimmy Carter's handling of foreign relations — and of the continuing rivalry between Cyrus Vance and Zbigniew Brzezinski.